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FOR GENERAL BACALLIS/COL SHELTON

RETRANSMITTED 16 JAN 68

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE SCENE OF THE INVESTIGATION ON THE 11 JAN SR-71 TRAINER ACCIDENT. QUOTE REQUEST ALL CREW MEMBERS BE CAUTIONED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PRIOR TO THEIR NEXT FLIGHT IN SENIOR CROWN AIRCRAFT: (1) PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT ENGINES WILL REMAIN RUNNING SUBSEQUENT TO DOUBLE GENERATOR FAILURE, AND FLAMEOUT IN BOTH ENGINES CAN OCCUR AT ANY TIME AFTER THE SECOND GENERATOR FAILS. (2) IN THE EVENT ONE GENERATOR FAILS IN FLIGHT, THE CREW SHOULD PROCEED TO THE NEAREST, REPEAT, NEAREST SUITABLE FACILITY AND LAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS FIRST REPORT RECEIVED ON THE DETAILS OF THE 11 JANUARY ACCIDENT OF SR-71. QUOTE THIS WAS SR-71 CHECKOUT MISSION NUMBER THREE FOR [REDACTED] AS INSTRUCTOR PILOT. TAKE-OFF, CLIMB ACCELERATION AND INITIAL PORTION OF THE MISSION

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WAS NORMAL. NEAR THE ROLLOUT POINT ON THE LAST TURN THE CREW NOTED THE LEFT GENERATOR WARNING LIGHT CAME ON, AND ALL AUTO-PILOT PITCH SAS KICKED OFF. PITCH-SAS WAS RE-ENGAGED, AND ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO RESET THE GENERATOR WITHOUT SUCCESS. AT THIS TIME THE AIRCRAFT WAS AT 70,000 FEET AND FLYING AND 2.8 MACH. THE MISSION WAS ABORTED AND THE DECISION WAS MADE TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO BEALE AFB SINCE THE AIRCRAFT WAS HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION. A SHORT TIME LATER (POSSIBLY 5 MINUTES) THE RIGHT GENERATOR LIGHT CAME ON. THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOW FLYING ON BATTERY POWER ONLY. FLIGHT WAS CONTINUED TOWARD BEALE AFB AND LETDOWN WAS MADE SLOWLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT FLAMEOUT. BOTH ENGINES OPERATED NORMALLY UNTIL THE AIRCRAFT HAD REACHED A POSITION APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES NORTH OF

BEALE AFB AT 4000 FEET MSL. AT THIS POINT, WITH THE AIRFIELD IN SIGHT, THE RIGHT ENGINE BEGAN TO RUN ROUGH. THE IP ATTEMPTED RE-STARTS, AND HAD ATTEMPTED THREE STARTS ON THE RIGHT ENGINE, WHEN THE LEFT ENGINE BEGAN TO FAIL. THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER THEN ORDERED BAILOUT. THE PILOT IN THE FRONT SEAT EJECTED FIRST, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE IP IN THE REAR SEAT. BOTH EJECTIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL. ALL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONED NORMALLY. THE AIRCRAFT PITCHED UP, ROLLED AND STRUCK THE GROUND IN AN OPEN FIELD ABOUT 5 MILES NORTH OF THE BASE. GROUND PARTIES RETRIEVED THE CREW AND THEY ARE RESTING COMFORTABLY IN THE HOSPITAL AT BEALE AFB. CREW REST IS NOT CONSIDERED A FACTOR. WEATHER IS NOT CONSIDERED A FACTOR. END QUOTE.

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